GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5347
ANSWERED ON:05.05.2008
RATIONED ITEMS FOR ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS
Bhakta Shri Manoranjan

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received any representations from the Administration of Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands for according permission to supply of rationed articles to farmers of the Union Territory;

(b) if so, the details thereof and action taken thereon; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be approved?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH)

(a), (b) & (c): Andaman and Nicobar Islands Union Teiritory Administration has requested for increasing allocation of foodgrains under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) during 2007-08 and 2008-09. In this request, there is also a mention that the additional allocations requested are in view of free distribution of dry ration to Tsunami affected population including affected cultivators.

Allocations of foodgrains under TPDS for Antyodaya and Below Poverty Line (BPL) families are made by the Government @ 35 kg per month per family, the number of such families being on the basis of 1993-94 poverty estimates of Planning Commission and March, 2000 population estimates of Registrar General of India (RGI) or the number of Antyodaya and BPL families actually identified by the State Government or UT Administration and ration cards issued to them, whichever is less.

As per the above norms, the estimated number of BPL families in Andaman & Nicobar Islands is 28,000. However, the UT Administration has actually issued ration cards to 16,000 BPL and Antyodaya families. Therefore, the allocation of foodgrains is being made for these 16,000 families of BPL and Antyodaya families. Allocation to the UT for Above Poverty Line (APL) category of ration card holders is being made depending upon the off-take of foodgrains under this category during earlier years. The above position has been explained to the UT Administration.

For Tsunami affected population in the UT, foodgrains were also allocated under Sampoorna Gramin Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) special component under which foodgrains were allocated as part of the relief measures. Since SGRY Scheme has now been subsumed into the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, there is no provision for allocating foodgrains as part of wages or for calamity relief under the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme. Under this Scheme, from 1st April, 2008, payments of wages is being done only in cash.